

May 31th, 2023

Statement from NordÖl (The Nordic Council of Senior Physicians) regarding the organization and regulation of task-shifting from doctors to other healthcare professionals.

The core task of a modern healthcare service is to provide high quality specialized healthcare with doctors and other professionals working closely together. The healthcare is changing and facing demographic challenges. In this scenario, task-shifting between medical professions is being planned or has been established in various locations.

NordÖl states that

Task-shifting in medical services can provide unique possibilities. However, it requires good clinical leadership with clear cut working procedures in order to assure high quality in care and patient security. The aim must be to go from task-shifting to optimizing tasks in an organized way with doctors in the lead.

NordÖl proposes that

- Task-shifting must be guided by patient benefit and high quality. It cannot be guided by economics or staffing shortages.
- Task-shifting must lead to equal, good or better treatment and patient safety.
- Task-shifting which includes medical assessment has to include responsibility. This has to be approved by a medical doctor.
- Task-shifting must include well-defined tasks and well-defined outcome areas.
- Task-shifting requires relevant supervision, monitoring, evaluation and quality control.
- Personnel working with new procedures have to get sufficient time for training.
- Task-shifting from doctors to other staff must reduce the workload for the doctor.
- Task-shifting must not interfere with doctors opportunities to further their education.